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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION  
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE

I N S E C T P E S T S U R V E Y

Special Supplement (1947, No. 7)

Issued July 10, 1947

\* RESULTS OF SURVEY FOR THE VETCH WEEVIL  
IN TEXAS, MAY 19-22, 1947

At the request of the Production and Marketing Administration, Max Reeher, an entomologist of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine well acquainted with the vetch weevil (Bruchus brachialis Fahr.) and its habits, made sweepings for adults and searched for eggs on the immature pods in 36 fields of hairy vetch being grown for seed in Brown, Comanche, Erath, Eastland, Mills, and Palo Pinto Counties of Texas on May 19-22, 1947. Mr. Reeher was assisted throughout the survey by O. C. Hayworth, of the Texas Department of Agriculture, and at different times during the survey by various members of the local Production and Marketing Administration staffs, the county agents, and others. According to the Production and Marketing Administration officials, at least 90 percent of the area in which hairy vetch is being grown in these counties was covered.

From 50 to 300 sweeps were made with an insect net to obtain adults, and from a few to 500 pods were examined for eggs, depending on the size of the fields and the condition of the vetch. Because of unfavorable conditions, no sweeps or pod examinations were made in two fields, no sweeping was done in one field, and no pods were examined in two fields. Hairy vetch has been grown for 4 or 5 years on one farm near Mineral Wells and was a very favorable place to find the weevil if present. On this farm volunteer hairy vetch was growing in the fencerow along one side of a large field of hairy vetch that had been disked up. Any weevils present would thus have been concentrated on the volunteer vetch, but none were found in 300 sweeps for adults or by examination of about 500 pods for eggs. In fact, although conditions in most of the fields visited were favorable for the weevil, no weevils in any stage of development were found in any of the fields examined.

According to information received from F. L. Thomas, of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, surveys of hairy vetch for the vetch weevil made this year and in previous years by Paul Gregg, extension entomologist, and others of the Station staff, have also yielded negative results.



